

DOE – Medical and Infectious Disease Update – Wednesday, June 23, 2004

DOE weekly updates on Bird Flu, Human Influenza, West Nile Virus, or other illnesses and medical issues will continue as appropriate or as requested. The following information is current as of Thursday, June 24, 2004, 0700 hours, EST. Information presented is routinely taken from [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/), <http://www.cdc.gov/>, [The World Health Organization \(WHO\)](http://www.who.int/en/), <http://www.who.int/en/>, the Department of Defense [Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System](http://www.geis.fhp.osd.mil/), ([DoD-GEIS](http://www.geis.fhp.osd.mil/)), <http://www.geis.fhp.osd.mil/>, and other creditable sources.

Recent News

West Nile Virus Activity – Through 22June2004, there have been a total of **32 cases, 20 cases in Arizona alone**. See pages 3-4 of this update for details.

ALLERGY [The Accuweather page](http://www.accuweather.com/adcbn/public/maps_index.asp?type=airq) provides current air quality information with specific charts for [Grass Pollen](#), [Overall Pollen](#), [Ragweed Pollen](#), and [Tree Pollen](#) ...
http://www.accuweather.com/adcbn/public/maps_index.asp?type=airq.

Feds alert to health threat of new mosquito disease – 23June2004, **USA Today**, ATLANTA (AP) — As if West Nile virus wasn't bad enough, now U.S. health officials are on the lookout for another mosquito-borne disease, fearing it could become a permanent part of the American landscape if it entered the country. Rift Valley fever, which originated in Africa, is the only disease at the top of both human health and agriculture lists of dangerous diseases. The virus can kill people, with a near 1% mortality rate, making it deadlier than West Nile. But Rift Valley poses a greater threat to cattle and sheep. It kills up to 30% of the livestock it infects and if it were found in animals here, it would probably prompt livestock bans by other countries. "This is not a disease that occurs here now, but we want to make sure people are aware of the signs and symptoms," said Dr. Thomas Ksiazek, chief of the special pathogens branch of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The medical and public health community need to be mindful of it." ...
http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2004-06-23-rift-valley_x.htm.

Fear in the Workplace: The Bullying Boss – 22June2004, by Benedict Carey, **The New York Times** --Every working adult has known one - a boss who loves making subordinates squirm, whose moods radiate through the office, sending workers scurrying for cover, whose very voice causes stomach muscles to clench and pulses to quicken. It is not long before



Lisa Haney

dissatisfaction spreads, rivalries simmer, sycophants flourish. Normally self-confident professionals can dissolve into quivering bundles of neuroses. "It got to where I was twitching, literally, on the way into work," said Carrie Clark, 52, a former teacher and school administrator in Sacramento, Calif., who said her boss of several years ago baited and insulted her for 10 months before she left the job. "I had to take care of my health." Researchers have long been interested in the bullies of the playground, exploring what drives them and what effects they have on their victims. Only recently have investigators

turned their attention to the bullies of the workplace. Around the country, psychologists who study the dynamics of groups and organizations are discovering why cruel bosses thrive, how employees end up covering for managers they despise and under what conditions workers are most likely to confront and expose a bullying boss. Next week, researchers and policy makers from many nations will convene in Bergen, Norway, to discuss the issue ... <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/22/health/psychology/22bull.html>. - (Note: The NY Times Web service is free but requires that you register on their site, a relatively painless process - Ed.).

Dogs can predict epileptic seizures – 21June2004, by *Emily Singer*, **NewScientist** --Some dogs can predict when a child will have an epileptic seizure, a new study has revealed. These dogs not only protect their charges from injuries, such as falling, but also seem to help kids deal with the daily struggle of epilepsy. Nine of the 60 dogs in the study (15 per cent) were able to predict a seizure by licking, whimpering, or standing next to the child. These dogs were remarkably accurate - they predicted 80 per cent of seizures, with no false reports. However, those interested in owning a dog with these skills cannot yet just order one. The dogs were not trained, but instead began predicting seizures spontaneously within a month of moving in with their owners ...
<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99996047>.

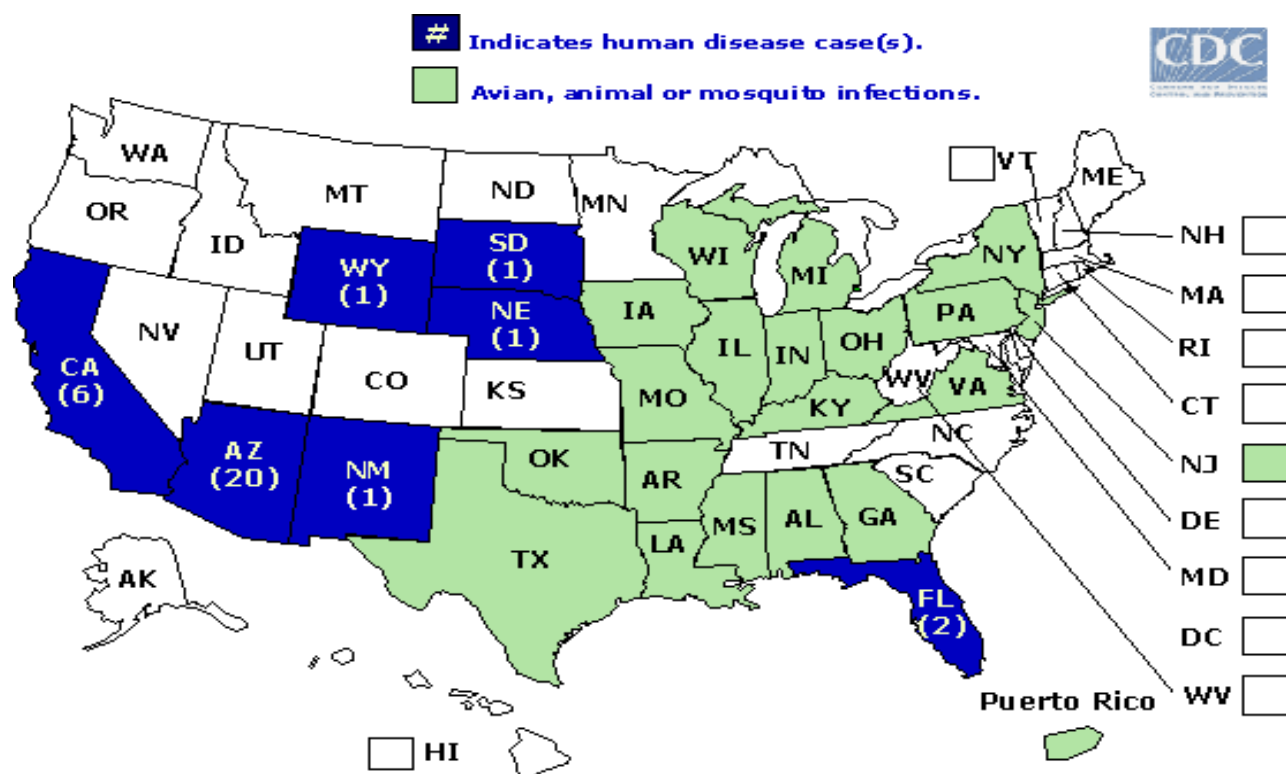
Carb unloading – 21June2004, by *Marty Meltus and Bill Scanlon*, **The Cincinnati Post** (Scripps Howard News Service) --All the right conditions have converged into a major low-carb storm. What everyone thought would be a short-term fad has taken over restaurants and grocery stores as low-carb menus and products flood the market. Say the words "I'm on Atkins" or "I'm on South Beach" and any diner knows to pass the steak. Dietitian Liz Marr says the low-carb invasion was triggered when science took a second look at the Atkins diet. "You had this whole scientific community saying, 'Atkins has no science behind it, and we'll prove it,' " Marr says. "Instead, they proved that it's just as effective, at least on a short-term basis, for weight loss, and it doesn't affect cholesterol." The late Dr. Robert Atkins' food and vitamin company, Atkins Nutritionals, went into overdrive, with everything from a low-carb ice cream to low-carb cereals. As people found they could lose weight quickly, carbs became public enemy No. 1. Sales of white rice, pasta, breads and high-carb fruit juices have dropped between 2 and 5 percent, according to ACNielsen, and manufacturers began formulating low-carb products to pick up the slack ... <http://www.cincypost.com/2004/06/21/carbs062104.html>.

Newly Grown Kidneys Can Sustain Life in Rats: Researchers Take Critical First Step Toward Using Animal Tissue Transplants to Treat Kidney Failure – 21June2004, St. Louis, June 21, 2004 — Growing new organs to take the place of damaged or diseased ones is moving from science fiction to reality, according to researchers at [Washington University School of Medicine](http://www.wustl.edu) in St. Louis. Scientists have previously shown that embryonic tissue transplants can be used to grow new kidneys inside rats. In their latest study, though, they put the new kidneys to an unprecedented and critical test, removing the rat's original kidneys and placing the new kidneys in position to take over for them. The new kidneys were able to successfully sustain the rats for a short time. "We want to figure out how to grow new kidneys in humans, and this is a very important first step," says Marc R. Hammerman, M.D., the Chromalloy Professor of Renal Diseases and leader of the study. "These rats lived seven to eight days after their original kidneys were removed, long enough for us to know that their new kidneys worked." The study will appear in the July/August issue of *Organogenesis*, a new scientific journal. It is also available online....
<http://aladdin.wustl.edu/medadmin/PAnews.nsf/news/DCF33D3A3CF3802186256EBA00556824?OpenDocument>.

Antioxidant Riches Found in Unexpected Foods – 18June2004, by *Jennifer Warner*, **WebMD** --Blueberries may be the poster children for antioxidant abundance, but a new study suggests the humble bean may be a more deserving candidate. The largest and most advanced analysis of the antioxidant content of common foods to date shows that disease-fighting antioxidants may be found in unexpected fruits and vegetables, such as beans, artichokes, and even the much-maligned Russet potato. Researchers found that small red beans contain more disease-fighting antioxidants than both wild and cultivated blueberries, which have been heralded in recent years for their high antioxidant content. In fact, three of the top five antioxidant-rich foods studied were beans ... <http://dailynews.att.net/cgi-bin/health?e=pub&dt=040618&cat=diet&st=diet100138&src=webmd>.

2004 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States, reported to CDC. [Maps](#) reporting WNV avian and veterinary activity occurring during 2004 are updated regularly. **For the week ending 22 June 2004, there were a total of 18 new cases.**

**2004 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States
(reported to CDC as of June 22, 2004*)**

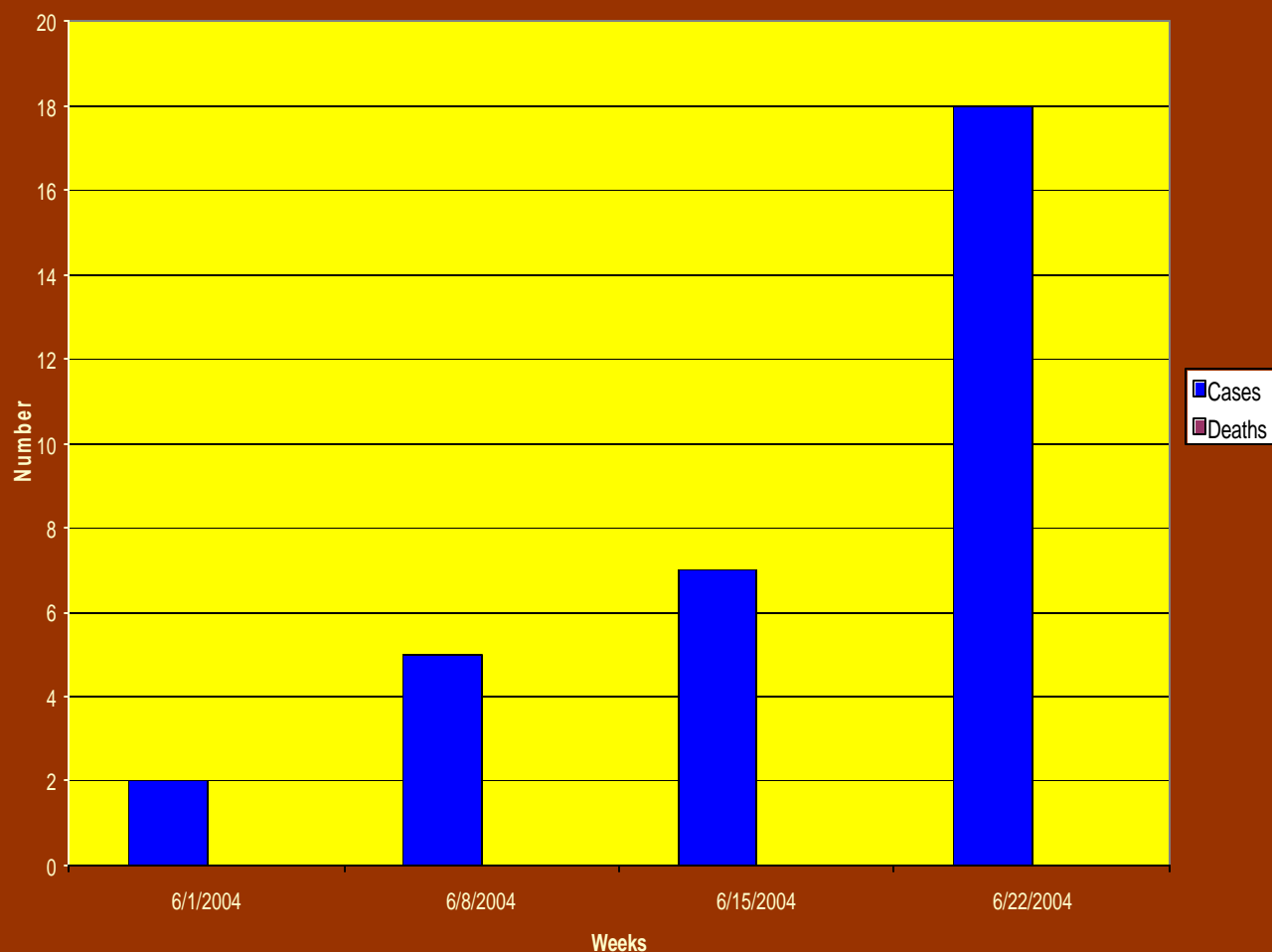


*Currently, WNV maps are updated regularly to reflect surveillance reports released by state and local health departments to the CDC ArboNet system for public distribution. Map shows the distribution of avian, animal, or mosquito infection occurring during 2004 with number of human cases. If West Nile virus infection is reported to CDC ArboNet in any area of a state, that entire state is shaded accordingly.

State	<u>Neuroinvasive disease</u>	<u>Fever</u>	<u>Other Clinical/ Unspecified</u>	<u>Total Human Cases Reported to CDC</u>	Deaths
Arizona	14	4	2	20	0
California	0	6	0	6	0
Florida	1	1	0	2	0
Nebraska	0	1	0	1	0
New Mexico	0	1	0	1	0
South Dakota	1	0	0	1	0
Wyoming	0	1	0	1	0
Total	16	14	2	32	0

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&controlCaseCount04_detailed.htm

2004 West Nile Virus Weekly Cases & Deaths
 (Totals From This Week - Totals From Last Week = # Of Weekly Items)
 (Source - CDC-Weekly Updates)



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